

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving computing platform service information associated with at least
3 one service offered by at least a subset of a plurality of service points;
4 storing at least a portion of the computing platform service information; and
5 periodically transmitting, without confirmation, a part of the at least a
6 portion of the computing platform service information to at least one potential
7 subscriber to the at least one service.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining that the at least one service offered by one of the plurality of
3 service points is no longer available.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein determining that the at least one service
2 offered by one of the plurality of service points is no longer available further
3 comprises:
4 determining that the at least one service does not respond to a polling query.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein determining that the at least one service
2 offered by one of the plurality of service points is no longer available further
3 comprises:
4 determining that the at least one service does not respond within a selected
5 timeout period.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 discovering that a new service offered by one of the plurality of service
3 points is currently available.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 providing a direction to the new service.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 discovering that a new service offered by an additional service point not

3 included in the plurality of service points is currently available

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one service includes a wireless
2 service selected from: a network connection service, a printer service, a display
3 service, a storage service, an inventory service, a game service, an interactive
4 customer service, a query service, a communication service, and an advertising
5 service.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein periodically transmitting occurs at a single
2 physical location.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of service points are located in a
2 range area.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 monitoring the range area to detect a plurality of broadcasting service points.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 monitoring the range area to detect at least one wireless service broker.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 receiving computing platform service information associated with at least
3 one service offered by at least a subset of a plurality of service points located in
4 another range area from a single wireless service broker.

- 1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving computing platform service information associated with at least
3 one service offered by at least a subset of a plurality of service points from at
4 least one wireless service broker.
- 1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the computing platform service information
2 includes an extensible markup language device description.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the part of the at least a portion of the
2 computing platform service information includes sufficient information to
3 access the service directly.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the service is offered by a Universal Plug
2 and Play (UPnP) node.
- 1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the computing platform service information
2 comprises unsolicited computing platform service information.
- 1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the computing platform service information
2 comprises at least one attribute associated with the at least one service.
- 1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one attribute is selected from at
2 least one of a range, a signal strength, and a location.
- 1 21. An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having associated data,
2 wherein the data, when accessed, results in a machine performing:

3 receiving computing platform service information associated with at least
4 one service offered by at least a subset of a plurality of service points in a range
5 area;
6 storing at least a portion of the computing platform service information; and
7 periodically transmitting, without confirmation, a part of the at least a
8 portion of the computing platform service information to at least one potential
9 subscriber to the at least one service.

1 22.The article of claim 21, wherein periodically transmitting, without
2 confirmation, the part of the at least a portion of the computing platform service
3 information further includes:
4 transmitting, without confirmation, the part of the at least a portion of the
5 computing platform service information at intervals of less than about every
6 five minutes.

1 23.The article of claim 21, wherein receiving computing platform service
2 information further comprises:
3 running a process, in a network, to receive the computing platform service
4 information.

1 24.The article of claim 21, wherein the data, when accessed, results in the
2 machine performing:
3 selecting the portion of the computing platform service information
4 according to a policy.

1 25. The article of claim 24, wherein the policy is associated with at least one of a
2 pecuniary relationship, an ownership relationship, a security relationship, and a
3 device type.

1 26.The article of claim 21, wherein the computing platform service information
2 comprises unsolicited computing platform service information.

1 27.The article of claim 21, wherein the computing platform service information
2 comprises at least one attribute associated with the at least one service.

1 28.The article of claim 27, wherein the at least one attribute is selected from at
2 least one of a range, a signal strength, and a location.

1 29.An apparatus, comprising:
2 a memory module to store computing platform service information
3 associated with at least one service offered by at least a subset of a plurality of
4 service points in a range area; and
5 a transmission module, coupled to the memory module, to periodically
6 transmit without confirmation at least a part of the computing platform service
7 information to at least one potential subscriber to the at least one service.

1 30.The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:
2 a reception module to receive the computing platform service information.

1 31.The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the reception module comprises a
2 software module to execute in a network.

1 32.The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the range area is defined by a network
2 router count.

1 33.The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the network router count comprises a
2 time-to-live count of about 1 to about 3.

1 34.The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the range area is defined by a reception
2 range of a wireless reception module coupled to the memory module.

1 35.The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the transmission module is to provide a
2 direction to at least one of the plurality of service points if the at least one
3 potential subscriber indicates the at least one of the plurality of service points is
4 not within a useful range of the at least one potential subscriber.

1 36.The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the computing platform service
2 information comprises unsolicited computing platform service information.

1 37.The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the computing platform service
2 information comprises at least one attribute associated with the at least one
3 service.

1 38.The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the at least one attribute is selected from
2 at least one of a range, a signal strength, and a location.

1 39.A system, comprising:
2 a memory module to store computing platform service information
3 associated with at least one service offered by at least a subset of a plurality of
4 service points in a range area;
5 a transmission module, coupled to the memory module, to transmit without
6 confirmation at least a part of the computing platform service information to at
7 least one potential subscriber to the at least one service; and
8 an omnidirectional antenna coupled to the transmission module.

1 40.The system of claim 39, further comprising:

2 a reception module, coupled to the omnidirectional antenna, to receive the
3 computing platform service information.

1 41.The system of claim 39, wherein the part of the computing platform service
2 information is selected according to a policy.

1 42.The system of claim 41, wherein the policy specifies a service type.

1 43.The system of claim 39, further comprising:
2 a wireless service broker to receive the at least a part of the computing
3 platform service information from the transmission module.

1 44.The system of claim 39, wherein the computing platform service information
2 comprises unsolicited computing platform service information.

1 45.The system of claim 39, wherein the computing platform service information
2 comprises at least one attribute associated with the at least one service.

1 46.The system of claim 45, wherein the at least one attribute is selected from at
2 least one of a range, a signal strength, and a location.